Abstract Proceedings of the Travancore Legislative Council.

The Council met in the Dewan's room, Public Offices, at 12 Noon on Friday the 6th June 1919/23rd Edavam 1094.

Present.

DEWAN BAHADUR M. KRISHNAN NAIR ESQ., B. A. & B. L.,
DEWAN.....*Presiding.*

V. Subba Aiyar Esq., B. A. & B. L.
N. Subrahmanya Aiyar Esq., M. A.
R. Mahadeva Aiyar Esq., B. A.
Rao Bahadur K. V. Rengaswami Aiyangar Esq., M. A.
N. Raman Pillai Esq., B. A.
John Kuriyan Esq., B. A., B. C. E.
I. C. Chacko Esq., B. A., B. Sc.
N. Rajaram Rao Esq., B. A.
Paul Daniel Esq., M. A. & L. T.
A. Govinda Menon Esq., B. A.
M. Subrahmanya Pillai Esq.
R. Gopala Pillai Esq., B. A. & B. L.
John Mackie Esq.
C. Raman Tampi Esq., B. A. & B. L.

K. Narayanan Pandalai Esq., B. A. & B. L.....*Secretary.*

The Secretary reported that the Revenue Recovery Regulation Amendment Bill, the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Bill and the Survey and Boundaries Bill, finally passed by the Council on the 13th March 1919, received the assent of His Highness the Maha Raja on the 12th, 22nd and 24th May 1919, respectively, and that they became law as Regulations VIII, IX and X of 1094.

THE REGISTRATION OF SHIPS BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar, in introducing the Registration of Ships Bill, spoke as follows:—

"Sir,

I beg to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration of sea-going vessels in Travancore. There has been, of late, a revival of shipbuilding industry in Travancore, and it has therefore become necessary to provide for the registry of such ships. The Bill is a short one, consisting of only twenty five Sections. The first two Sections deal with preliminary matters. Section 3 requires that every ship should be registered before it proceeds on any voyage. Sections 4 to 8 describe the procedure to be followed before a certificate of registry is issued. Section 9 provides for the ascertainment of tonnage and Section 10 requires that the registered number, tonnage and name of a ship shall be cut or marked in every ship. Section 11 requires that the owner shall not use the certificate for any other ship. Sections 12 to 14 deal with the formalities to be observed whenever there is a change of master or owner, or when the certificate is lost or whenever there is an alteration in the construction of a vessel. Sections 15 to 21 provide penalties for contravening the provisions of the Regulation. If any fine is imposed under the Regulation, the Magistrate may, under Section 22, direct the recovery of the fine by distress and sale of the ship and the tackle, apparel and furniture thereof. Section 23 requires the previous sanction of Government or of any officer empowered in that behalf, before a prosecution is instituted under the Regulation. Offences under the Regulation have, under Section 24, to be tried only by a First Class Magistrate. Lastly, Section 25 provides for the making of rules by Government. The Bill is thus a short and non-contentious measure. I therefore beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Carried.

Mr. Subba Aiyar.—

"In the beginning of this year, some ships were ready for registration, and it was therefore necessary to pass an emergency Regulation (VII of 1094) under Section 15 of the Legislative Council Regulation. Regulation VII of 1094 will be in force only for six months and will cease to be operative in September next. It is therefore necessary that this Bill should soon become law so as to take the place of Regulation VII of 1094. I therefore beg to move that the Bill need not be referred to a Select Committee".

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Carried.

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Mr. Subba Aiyar :—

"Rule 45 of the rules for the conduct of the business of the Legislative Council provides that, if the Council decides that it is not necessary to refer a Bill to a Select Committee, the Council shall not proceed to take the Bill into consideration until the expiration of fifteen clear days from the date of the first reading. I beg to move that the operation of the above rule be suspended and the Bill taken up for consideration at once."

Seconded by Mr. Rengaswami Aiyangar.

Carried.

The consideration of the Bill being over, Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the Bill be read again on a future date of which notice should be given.

Seconded by Mr. Raman Pillai.

Carried.

THE PUBLIC CANALS AND PUBLIC FERRIES REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar moved for permission to introduce the Public Canals and Public Ferries Regulation Amendment Bill, by suspending the operation of Rule 33, as the translation of the Bill had not been published in the Gazette.

Seconded by Mr. Chacko.

Mr. Raman Tampi said that, as the Bill affected a large number of people, it would be better to have the Bill taken up after the publication of the translation.

The Council adopted Mr. Raman Tampi's suggestion and resolved to postpone the introduction of the Bill.

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar presented the report of the Select Committee on the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill, and moved that the report and the Bill be taken up for consideration.

Seconded by Mr. Raman Pillai.

Carried.

The consideration of the Bill being over, Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the Bill be read again on a future date of which notice should be given.

Seconded by Mr. Daniel.

Carried.

THE PLANT PESTS BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the words "the 1st Chingom 1095" be inserted at the end of sub-section (2) of Section I.

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Carried.

Mr. Subba Aiyar:—

"The definition of the term "plant" in Section 2, which includes "seed", appears to be wide enough to include even food grains imported from outside. It is therefore thought desirable to restrict it to only such seeds as may be notified by Government. I therefore beg to move that the word 'seed' in line 3 of Section 2 be deleted and that the following be inserted at the end of the Clause defining 'plant' :—

"nor does it include the seed, unless the same has been specifically included in the definition of 'plant' by Our Government by a Notification under this Regulation".

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Carried.

Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the following definition of the word 'import' be inserted at the end of Section 2 :—

""Import" means import by sea into Travancore from outside British India."

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Carried.

Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the words "or the removal from one place to another in" be inserted between the words "into" and "Travancore" in line 3 of Section 4 (1). He said that the amendment was necessary to prohibit the removal of plant from an infected area to any other place in Travancore itself.

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Carried.

Mr. Subba Aiyar then moved that the Bill be finally read and passed.

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Carried.

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